

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1, 2, 4-5, and 7 were pending in the application, of which Claim 1 is independent. In the Final Office Action dated May 12, 2004, Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and Claims 2 and 4-5 were rejected under § 103(a). Following this response, Claims 1, 2, 4-5, and 7 remain in this application. Applicants hereby address the Examiner's rejections in turn.

I. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Final Office Action dated May 12, 2004, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,119,864 ("*Kessler*"). Claim 1 has been amended to further define and clarify the invention, and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment overcomes this rejection and adds no new matter.

Amended Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art in that it recites, for example, "whereby said small article holding pocket is capable of receiving at least a part of said small article between said small article mounting plate portion and said small article holding pocket itself and holding a part of a surface of said small article at a side opposite to said small article mounting plate portion". In contrast, *Kessler* at least does not disclose the aforementioned recitation of Claim 1. Accordingly, independent Claim 1 patentably distinguishes the present invention over the cited art, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of Claim 1.

Dependent Claims 2, 4-5, and 7 are also allowable at least for the reasons above regarding independent Claim 1, and by virtue of their dependency upon independent Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 2, 4-5, and 7.

II. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment After Final be entered by the Examiner, placing the claims in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed amendments of the claims do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Finally, Applicants respectfully submit that the entry of the Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims, as amended, are patentable over the cited references. The preceding arguments are

based only on the arguments in the Official Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Official Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this amendment and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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